

A GIGANTIC FRAUD.

Bankers and Capitalists Duped by a Big Land Swindle.

ALLEGED WEST VIRGINIA CONCERN.

Bonds for a Million Dollars That Are Worth Nothing.

A BOLD FORGERY OF A DEED

For 200,000 Acres of Land in West Virginia—The Standard Coal and Timber Company A Bogus Concern. Doing Business With Land for Which They Have No Title—Financiers in New York Taken In—A Prospectus Full of Promises that Can Never Be Kept.

The New York World of the 18th instant contains a lengthy and sensational exposure of what it alleges is a "huge fraud" in connection with a concern known as the Standard Coal and Timber Company of West Virginia. This company, according to the World, has issued bonds for \$1,000,000 against 200,000 acres of land in West Virginia. The company is said to have a capital stock (on paper) of \$2,000,000. The bonds were issued through the Commonwealth Title Insurance and Trust Company of Philadelphia, which acted as trustee for the bonds so far as regards the payment of the two years' interest thereon. Of this \$1,000,000 of bonds it is alleged that more than \$250,000 have been sold and are now held by banks and private capitalists in New York, Philadelphia, Brooklyn and other places. It is alleged that a deed to the property against which these bonds were issued was forged and that the bonds are therefore valueless. Four or five banks in New York are mentioned as having advanced money on the bonds, but so far as could be ascertained to-day such does not appear to be the case, although in one or two instances a very few of the bonds, not exceeding \$5,000 in any one case, appear to have been deposited as additional collateral on loans already made.

The New York Evening Post of the same date says, in regard to the statement that several banks were caught by the bonds that "in no case was any loan made on the bonds in question, and in no case has any one of the banks mentioned lost anything, by the bonds in question."

Among the banks mentioned as holding some of the bonds was the Bowers Bank of New York, which, it was said, had advanced \$50,000 on \$75,000 of the bonds per value. Henry P. Degraaf, president of the Bowers Bank, said that that bank did not hold a dollar's worth of the bonds.

THE WORLD'S STORY.

In its lengthy account of the transactions of the company, the World says: The prospectus of the Standard Coal and Timber company, of West Virginia, is full of promises. Mulberry Sellers might have written it. Like most romances it has a yellow cover. The company, according to the prospectus, was chartered April 25, 1892. The capital stock, "full paid and non-assessable," is \$2,000,000. There are \$1,000,000 first mortgage 5 per cent, thirty-year gold bonds. The principal office is in the Pennsylvania Mutual building, No. 925 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

The officers are: President, Joseph H. Swift, Brooklyn, N. Y., of whom the prospectus says: "He has been prominently identified with the lumber and wood working industry for many years, and for the past seven years has been associated with the Standard Oil Company, under contract to manufacture boxes for that concern."

MR. SWIFT'S FINE BUSINESS.

According to the prospectus, Mr. Swift has used, during the past year, 5,000 car loads of material—lumber and box shooks—in filling the Standard Oil company's order alone.

The treasurer is Frederick J. Swift, whose address is given as the Drexel building, Wall street, New York. Young Mr. Swift is the son of the president of the company. He finds enough time from his duties as treasurer of this splendid company to act as private secretary to Charles W. Dayton, the postmaster.

The secretary is James S. Kendall, export lumber, No. 15 Whitehall street, New York. The prospectus gives as the company's trustees and registrars the Commonwealth Title Insurance and Trust company, of No. 813 Chestnut street, Philadelphia.

West Virginia "the authorized agent" is Hon. William A. Ooley, secretary of state, Charleston, W. Va. The attorneys in the same state are Payne and Taylor, who do business at the county seat of McDowell county, a town called Welch.

"FOUNDATION FACTS," SO CALLED.

Then this romancing prospectus sets forth glowingly what it calls "foundation facts." It says the company owns 204,000 acres of valuable mineral, timber and farming lands, most favorably located in McDowell county, W. Va., on the line of the Ohio extension of the Norfolk and Western railroad. "The immense resources and valuable property owned by the company are almost incalculable," writes the author of the prospectus, dazed by the wealth before his mental vision, but he makes what he terms "a conservative estimate of the value of the resources. These are his figures:

100,000 acres of coal land at \$15 an acre.....\$1,500,000
150,000 acres of timber land, containing 1,500,000,000 feet, at \$2 a thousand feet, 3,000,000,000 feet of coal land—when cleared at \$10 per acre.....1,000,000

Total value of property as computed for coal, timber and agricultural purposes alone.....\$2,500,000

"REDEEMABLE AFTER TWENTY YEARS."

But in estimating the present value of the property the writer of the prospectus is even more conservative. He says it is worth not less than \$5,000,000—\$25 an acre. This \$5,000,000 is represented by the company's capital stock, \$2,000,000 in 20,000 shares of \$100 each, full paid and non-assessable. The 5 per cent, thirty-year gold bonds of \$1,000 each are redeemable after twenty years, at the option of the company. One would really think, in reading the prospectus, that the company expected to attain its majority. "These bonds, which are a first lien upon the property on a basis of only \$5 per acre, are fully secured by the terms of mortgages deposited with the Commonwealth Title Insurance and Trust Company."

The World quotes further from the prospectus and gives a letter signed by Payne & Taylor, attorneys at law at Perryville, McDowell county, W. Va., certifying the correctness of the title of

the land alleged to be owned by the company, and continues as follows:

A FORGED DEED.

This prospectus is a deceitful, lying document. The Standard Coal and Timber Company does not own an inch of the land whose richness it glorifies. The Commonwealth Title and Trust Company, of Philadelphia, a most respectable and conservative concern, found that out, and promptly refused to act longer as the timber company's trustee. The Standard Coal and Timber Company has not a hut nor a hole on any part of all this land. This land in West Virginia has long been a playground for litigation. Up to a very little time ago it was a wild, uninhabited country. Nowadays its prospective value is becoming apparent, for railroads are beginning to penetrate it. It is a prize worth stealing.

The 204,000 acres of land claimed by the timber company is part of a tract of 320,000 acres. The title to these 320,000 acres is clear enough from March 1, 1795, to February 21, 1866. There is recorded in Tazewell county court a deed dated February 21, 1866, which conveys this tract from Michael Bouvier to Henry L. Morris. This deed is also recorded in the McDowell county court on the same date.

ERNEST'S AFFIDAVIT.

This deed is a forgery, and the Standard Coal and Timber Company knows that it is a forgery. There is also recorded in the circuit court of McDowell county in a suit touching this tract of land, in which Samuel G. B. Cook is the plaintiff and Mary L. Sacia and others are defendants, a deposition by Ferdinand A. L. Ernst, taken in New York. It was taken before Walter C. Dupigne. Ernst swears that the deed to the 320,000 acres of land in West Virginia, purporting to be signed by Henry L. Morris, was made in New York, and was signed by a young man whose name was not Henry L. Morris. This affidavit of Ernst is extremely interesting reading.

"The young man who signed the name of Henry L. Morris to the deed," Ernst swears, "told me that Major Chadwick had paid him to sign that deed, and he had signed the name of Henry L. Morris, although that was not his name, and that he did not care a damn what the consequences might be, that he would hold Charlie O. Richardson and Chadwick."

OPERATORS IN WILD LAND.

"He had received only a few dollars for the job. Richardson is an operator in wild land; Chadwick is a sharp operator in anything in which there is any money, and has been three times in state prison."

Morris, it appears, was paid \$2 in a New York saloon for committing the forgery, and the World gives an interesting history of the transaction. Several interviews with the real owners of the land which the fake company claims to own appear, among them one with Colonel W. G. W. Inger, of Philadelphia, who says in part:

"I remember," says Colonel Inger, "when that scheme was hatched. A man named Jesse Irwin, who lives at Welch, W. Va., but who has passed considerable time in New York and other cities around here, claimed a tract of land embracing 480,000 acres in the Robert Morris grant. He had no title to this land. Harris Hoyt, of New York, was a partner of Irwin in this claim."

"A plan for bringing out a 'fake' deed was concocted. A Mrs. Smith, also of New York, was mixed up in the scheme. Papers giving all the details and names of all the parties connected are on file in the court house in Welch."

"Back in 1875 these people met in a saloon on the southwest corner of Day and Church streets, New York, and made out the deed. A man from Brooklyn, whose name I forget—it is on the papers which I stated were on file at Welch—was hired to pose as Henry L. Morris. He was paid \$2 for what he did. "A deed for 32,000 acres was made out from Michael Bouvier to this Pseudo Henry L. Morris, who then signed a deed of the same property to Morzan H. Haskins."

THE DEED DATED BACK.

"This deed was dated back to 1860, and in some manner they succeeded in getting it recorded under that date. From this start the 320,000-acre tract was handed along by a series of deeds until it landed in the hands of the Scotch Coal, Iron and Railroad Company. This concern issued a lot of bonds, which they sold to innocent purchasers. Some of these bonds are being hawked around now, quite a lot being held in Baltimore. Only three weeks ago a friend sent me a couple of \$1,000 bonds of the Scotch Company to sell for him. He was much surprised when I told him that the company existed no longer and his bonds were worthless."

The men who bought up the Standard Coal and Timber Company had no intention of doing things in a half-way manner. Therefore, it was not surprising to find their offices in one of the finest office buildings in Philadelphia—the Penn Mutual building, No. 813 Chestnut street. They have two large rooms on the fifth floor, elegantly furnished and with all the facilities for doing a rushing business. Soft carpets, luxurious chairs, beautiful engravings on the richly papered walls—all these comforts are calculated to instill into the visitor an undisputable idea of the prosperity of the Standard Coal and Timber Company.

A MIGHTY "SLICE" SCHEME.

A customer of the Manhattan Trading Company, No. 13 Broadway, who was so chagrined that he refused to give his name, said that the scheme was the " slickest he had ever fallen in with."

"Mr. Cokefair," said he, "wanted to dispose of a note for \$500, and offered one of the Standard \$1,000 bonds as collateral. The bond was nicely got up by the American Bank Note company, had for its trustees the eminently respectable Commonwealth Title Insurance and Trust company of Philadelphia, and had its coupons for the first two years guaranteed. Mr. Cokefair assured me that the National Park bank and the Bowers bank had taken thousands of

dollars' worth as collateral for 75 per cent. of their face value, and I not only found that this was so, but that the company had an open account in the Park bank, which meant that it must have at least \$1,000 balance all the time. That was good enough security for anybody, apparently, and I lent my \$500 willingly. I have two \$25 coupons on my bond, so I shall lose only \$450, as the thing stands now. I don't believe that the Commonwealth company will go back on that guarantee."

RICE BROS. "DON'T UNDERSTAND."

The "yellow book," the Standard Coal and Timber Company's prospectus, states exultingly, that "The well known firm of Rice Bros., wholesale lumber dealers, of Providence and Boston, have contracted to take the entire output of yellow poplar and white oak lumber from the tract for a term of years, and the contractors now have mills in operation for cutting the lumber under this contract."

The World, with its usual care, wired to Rice Bros. yesterday, asking them what connection they had with the Standard company. This answer came back by wire:

"Don't understand your dispatch. We are not operating with the company you mention."

Mr. Cokefair and some others whose names are connected with the exposure deny all knowledge of the forged deed, or of any crooked transaction. This is doubtless true of others who have not been heard from, including Mr. Ohley, who is published as the state agent of the company. These names may have been used without their knowledge. So far it appears that all the rascality has been the work of parties who do not belong to West Virginia.

A CEMETERY BROKEN UP.

The Waves Wash Out Coffins and Expose the Corpses.

BALTIMORE, Md., Oct. 19.—Officers of the Weems line steamers report that a cemetery on Solomon's Island was badly washed in Friday's storm. The burial ground was in the yard of a Methodist Episcopal church that stood the end of a long low strip of ground, with water on either side. The graves were only slightly above the water level and within fifteen feet of the water's edge. During the storm the waters gradually approached the graves and tombstones. The mounds began to level and the marble slabs to topple. In a short while the grassy surface had disappeared. Many of the tombstones were prostrated and some of the coffins were exposed. Next the waves completely hid the cemetery, and when the storm subsided the earth was torn and coffins were broken open, corpses were exposed and the clothing of some of the dead was found on the beach.

A BUILDING COLLAPSES.

Killing One Man and Fatally Injuring Several Others.

HOPKINSVILLE, Ky., Oct. 19.—At 9 o'clock this morning the building occupied by the Blumenstiel Carriage Manufacturing Company, of this city, collapsed, killing one man, and in all probability fatally wounding two others. The building was undergoing repairs; the roof had been taken off and the brick of the upper walls had been piled on the floor of the second story. The weight of them caused the collapse. John Warner, a bricklayer from Nashville, Tenn., was instantly killed. Charles Davis, a bricklayer from Clarksville, Tenn., had both legs broken and sustained internal injuries from which he will die. An unknown man was also fatally hurt. Several other workmen sustained injuries more or less serious.

DeYoung's Suggestion Declined.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 19.—Acting Secretary Hamlin, of the treasury department, has declined to approve a suggestion made by Hon. M. H. De Young, of San Francisco, that all goods arriving at the San Francisco mid-winter exposition be examined and appraised immediately upon their arrival at that place. The department has an adequate force of appraisers at Chicago for the due appraisal of all exhibits which are to be transferred from there to San Francisco, and the department prefers, says the acting secretary, that the service should be utilized for the purpose of completing the appraisal before the transportation of the goods.

In Honor of Russia.

LONDON, Oct. 19.—A dispatch to the Times from Toulon says that the authorities propose to change the name of the boulevard Levaillant to the boulevard Avelin. It is also suggested to change the name of the new iron clad, which is to be launched on the 27th inst., either to the Czar or Russia. There will be a huge picnic at Hayeres to-morrow, at which many of the seamen of the Russian fleet will be present.

Eruption of the Skin Cured.

Ed. Venney, Brockville, Ontario, Canada, says:

"I have used Braden's Pills for the past fifteen years, and think them the best cathartic and anti-bilious remedy known. For some five years I suffered with an eruption of the skin that gave me great pain and annoyance. I tried different blood remedies, but, although gaining strength the itching was unrelieved. I finally concluded to take a thorough course of Braden's Pills. I took six each night for four nights, then five, four, three, two, lessening each time by one, and then for one month took one every night, with the happy result that now my skin is perfectly clear and has been so ever since."

Two Laborers Killed.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Oct. 19.—While laborers were digging a large trench inside the Carnegie mills fence at Homestead at 7 o'clock this morning the bank caved in completely burying Andrew Durak and John McMannus. When taken out they were both dead. Several others narrowly escaped.

ALLEGHANY, Pa., March 16, 1891.

Norman Lickly Mfg. Co., Des Moines, Iowa:

DEAR SIRS—I find Krause's Headache Capsules a ready seller, and can say from personal experience that they are a good thing, as the other night they cured me of a bad attack of neuralgia in about one hour when usually it lasts a day or two. C. W. SMART, Druggist.

Sold by Alex. T. Young, John Kiari, Wheeling; Bowie & Co., Bridgeport, O.

WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

Excursion to Chicago via Ohio River Railroad.

On and after this date, until October 31, the Ohio River railroad will sell tickets to Chicago, and return, on account of the World's Columbian Exposition, at greatly reduced rates. Tickets will be good for continuous passage in either direction with final limit for return passage November 5, 1893. For rates of fare, time of train and other information, inquire of ticket agents, Ohio River railroad, or write W. J. Robinson, general passenger agent, Parkersburg, W. Va.

THEY STOOD HIGH.

But Tortured an Old Lady Into Giving Up Her Money.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Oct. 19.—Early yesterday morning four armed masked men entered the house of Mrs. Rachel Logan, aged seventy years, who lived alone in Moon township, and after torturing the old lady by pouring coal oil over her clothing and threatening to set fire to it, compelled her to give them \$15 which she had secreted. Suspicion rested on four young men of this city, and this afternoon they were arrested. On one was found a \$100 bill which Mrs. Logan had marked. The names of the young men, who are all prominent in Pittsburgh, are F. G. Laughlin, a telegraph operator; John Shields, private secretary to a wealthy man of this city; Frank Evans, a clerk, and John Shoemaker, a clerk. The money was found on Evans, who broke down and confessed. They were all locked up. The old lady is in a precarious condition.

HE IS ENGAGED.

Senator Faulkner Will Join the Army of the Beneficents.

FORTRESS MONROE, Va., Oct. 19.—The engagement of Senator Faulkner, of West Virginia, and Miss Virginia Whiting, daughter of H. Clay Whiting, a prominent banker of Hampton, is announced. The wedding will take place early in the coming year.

The Bankers' Congress.

CHICAGO, Oct. 19.—The feature of today's proceedings at the bankers' convention was an address by Horace White, of New York. Other papers were read by George Leighton, of St. Louis, on "The Need of a Comprehensive Currency Reform," and James H. Tripp, of Marathon, N. Y., subject, "Is the National Banking System of any Benefit to the Country, and Should it be Preserved and Perpetuated?" There were also papers by Joseph Johnson, Birmingham, Ala.; Frank C. Dillard, of Sherman, Texas; E. F. Lindermuth, Clearfield, Pa., and others.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, ss.

LUCAS COUNTY.

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. CHENEY & Co., doing business in the city of Toledo, county and state aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of CATARRH that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH CURE.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D. 1893.

A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system.

F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O.

Sold by Druggists, 75c.

The telephone is said to be in more general use in Sweden than in any country in the world, and in no other is the service so cheap.

An Old Soldier Made Happy.

"During my term of service in the army I contracted chronic diarrhoea," says A. E. Bending, of Halsey, Oregon. "Since then I have used a great amount of medicine, but when I found that would give me relief they would injure my stomach, until Chamberlain's Colic Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy was brought to my notice. I used it and will say it is the only remedy that gave me permanent relief and no bad results follow." For sale by Charles R. Goetze, Will W. Irwin, Chris. F. Schnepf, Chas. Menkemeller, Wm. E. Williams, S. L. Brice, A. E. Scheele, Will Menkemeller, John Coleman, Richards & McElroy, Wheeling; Bowie & Co., Bridgeport, and B. F. Peabody & Son, Benwood.

Don't Be Left.

One who hasn't seen the World's Fair won't be "in it" after the show is over. The INTELLIGENCER makes the way easy.

A daily newspaper conducted on the senatorial courtesy plan would come out about once a month.—Detroit Journal.

Electric Bitters.

This remedy is becoming so well known and so popular, as to need no special mention. All who have used Electric Bitters sing the same song of praise. A purer medicine does not exist, and it is guaranteed to do all that is claimed. Electric Bitters will cure all diseases of the Liver and Kidneys, will remove Pimples, Boils, Salt Rheum and other affections caused by impure blood. Will drive Malaria from the system and prevent as well as cure all Malarial fevers. For cure of Headache, Constipation and Indigestion try Electric Bitters. Entire satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. Price 50 cents and \$1 per bottle, at Logan Drug Co.'s Drug Store, 5

For Malaria, Liver Trouble, or Indigestion, use BROWN'S IRON BITTERS

The Golden Secret of Long Life.

Keep the head cool, the feet warm and the bowels open. Bacon's Celery Cure is a vegetable preparation and acts as a natural laxative, and is the greatest remedy ever discovered for the cure of dyspepsia, liver complaint and all blood, liver and kidney diseases. Call on Logan Drug Company, sole agent, and get a trial package free. Large size 50c.

Take the Baltimore & Ohio to Chicago.

Excursion tickets now on sale via the Baltimore & Ohio at reduced round trip rates, good returning until November 5, 1893. Trains leave Wheeling, eastern time, at 6:50 a. m. and 1:25 p. m. daily, and at 3:50 p. m., except Sunday. For sleeping car accommodations and other information enquire of Baltimore & Ohio agents.

A Natural Food.

Conditions of the system arise when ordinary foods cease to build flesh—there is urgent need of arresting waste—assistance must come quickly, from natural food source.

Scott's Emulsion

is a condensation of the life of all foods—it is cod-liver oil reinforced, made easy of digestion, and almost as palatable as milk.

Prepared by Scott & Bowne, N. Y. All druggists.

JACKETS AND CAPES—GEO. R. TAYLOR.

GEO. R. TAYLOR.

JACKETS AND CAPES,

November Styles.

Only Twenty Hours After They Appear in New York!

GEO. R. TAYLOR.

FURS. FURS. FURS.

Jackets and Capes, Scarfs and Muffs, in Alaska Seal, Mink, Monkey, Martin, Lynx, Electric Seal and Fur Trimming.

GEO. R. TAYLOR.

DRESS GOODS.

In patterns and by the yard. In Newest styles, at the lowest prices.

GEO. R. TAYLOR.

DRESSES READY MADE,

Parisian Styles.

MERINO UNDERWEAR.

CAMBRIC UNDERWEAR.

GEO. R. TAYLOR.

Ask Some Questions about Pearline, of any woman who uses it. Ask her what she thinks of it, and whether it's quite safe to use, and if washing and cleaning is any easier with it. Ask her how the clothes look and last, when they're not rubbed over the washboard. Ask her how it would seem to go back to that eternal rub, rub, rub, now that she has got rid of it.

If she has used Pearline faithfully, and just as directed on every package, she'll probably have one question to ask you: "How in the world do you manage to get along without it." Send Peddlers and some unscrupulous grocers will tell you "this is as good as" or "the same as Pearline." IT'S FALSE—Pearline is never peddled, and if your grocer sends you something in place of Pearline, be honest—send it back. JAMES PYLE, New York.

STRONGEST. Assets, \$8,086,462.26. SAFEST. Compound Interest Investment OFFERED BY THE HOME LIFE INSURANCE CO. OF NEW YORK. ABSOLUTELY FREE. For particulars, address H. B. MOESER, Manager, 531 Wood St., Pittsburg. MOST LIBERAL Surplus, \$1,528,966.54. BEST. F. M. Thomas, General Agent, Kingwood, W. Va. ap12-w

"A HAND SAW IS A GOOD THING, BUT NOT TO SHAVE WITH." SAPOLIO IS THE PROPER THING FOR HOUSE-CLEANING.

NEUROVINE TABLETS!

A WONDERFUL NERVE AND BRAIN REMEDY. This remedy is not a recent discovery, but the Prescription of a trained physician, who has devoted years for all Nervous Diseases. It is purely vegetable, pleasant to take and a Positive Cure system rejuvenated. A decided improvement in one week. Are you suffering with Nervous Debility, Weak Memory, Pain in Back or Head, Binges, Nervous Prostration or Sleeplessness? Don't neglect yourself. These conditions result in insanity and Death, if neglected. The Neurovine Tablet Co., Oberlin, Ohio.

For sale by McLAIR BROS., Twelfth and Market St., and GEO. H. EDELING, 2125 Market St., and 2125

MANHOOD RESTORED "Nerve Seeds." This wonderful remedy guaranteed to cure all nervous diseases, such as "Back Pain, Headache, Nervousness, Loss of Memory, Nervous Prostration, Loss of Manhood, Impotency, Nightly Emissions, Quickness, Evil Dreams, Lack of Confidence, Nervousness, all kinds of loss of power in Generative Organ of either sex caused by over-excitation, youthful errors, excessive use of tobacco, opium or stimulants which lead to insanity, Consumption and Insanity. Guaranteed to cure or refund the money. For sale by all druggists. Address N. M. REED CO., Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill. BEFORE AND AFTER USE. Address N. M. REED CO., Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill. For Sale in Wheeling, W. Va., by LOGAN DRUG COMPANY, cor. Tenth and Main streets.

RESTORED MANHOOD DR. MOTT'S NERVE PILLS. The great remedy for nervous prostration and all nervous diseases of the generative organs of either sex, such as Nervous Prostration, Loss of Manhood, Impotency, Nightly Emissions, Youthful Errors, Mental Weakness, excessive use of Tobacco or Opium, which lead to Consumption and Insanity. With every \$5.00 order we give a written guarantee to cure or refund the money. Sold at \$1.00 per box, 6 boxes for \$5.00. DR. MOTT'S CHEMICAL CO., Cleveland, Ohio.

THE INTELLIGENCER. ADVERTISE IN A WIDELY CIRCULATED NEWSPAPER.